Thirty-two* Clerihews† for the 2010 General Election

1. The Prime Minister

James Gordon Brown,
Is known for his big clunking fist and enormous frown.
Such that, when on YouTube he attempted a smile,
Most people had, like me, some difficulty keeping down their stomach bile.

* including one unwanted appendix. †some of which are annotated.

2. The Leader of the Opposition

David William Donald Cameron,

Tirelessly will hammer on,

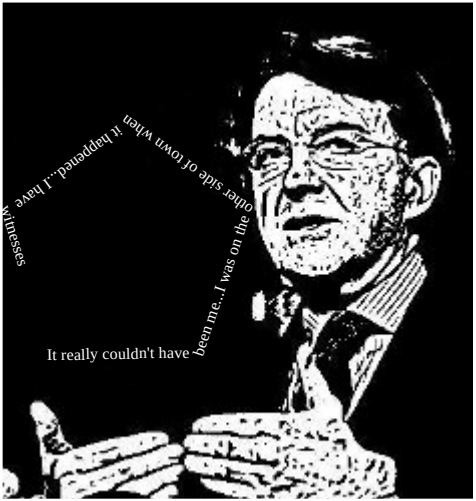
About the failings of New Labour - which is hardly fair,

Since he originally touted himself as the true heir to Blair.

3. The Leader of the Liberal Democrats

Nicholas William Peter Clegg,
Comes across as a nice guy and a thoroughly good egg.
To be our next prime minister he seems entirely able.
So it's a shame he's in the wrong party and somewhat
overshadowed by Vincent Cable.

4. The Deputy Prime Minister



Baron Mandelson, of Foy in the County of Herefordshire and
of Hartlepool in the County of Durham,
Reappeared in British politics just like a dark phantom,
To support Brown's collapsing administration with his arts
arcane and sinister.
He succeeded that inarticulate lecherous* oaf Prescott as our
Deputy Prime Minister.

*Affairs going public are, alas, no longer a cause for resignation.
However, no-one should be forced to visualise Prescott in a discreet act of
attempted procreation.

5. Senior Member of Shadow Cabinet

William Jefferson Hague,

in '01 swing voters avoided like plague.

Since then, however, his career's been a jolly old thrill,

As he increasingly assumes the bearing of a

latter-day Sir Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill.

6. Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrats

Dr John Vincent Cable,

For years warned us that the British economy was not stable.

When finally vindicated he did not excessively strut or preen,

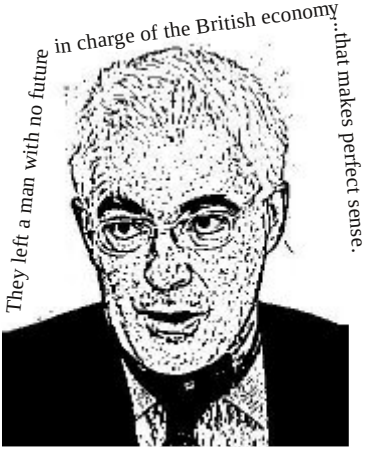
But instead restricted himself to:

interviews, articles,

commentary, writing a book

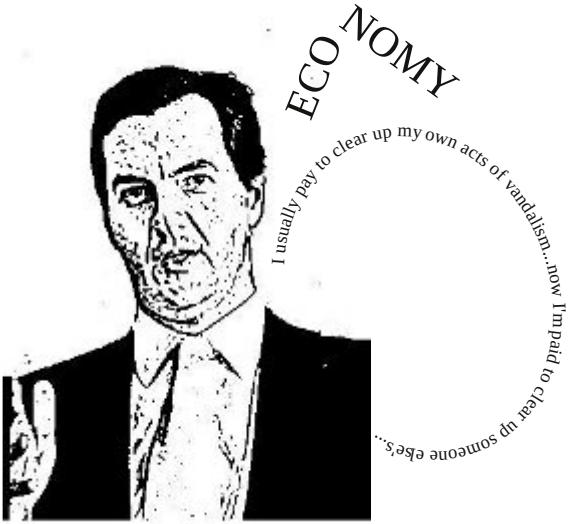
and at PMQs comparing Gordon Brown to Mr Bean.

7. The Chancellor of the Exchequer



Alistair Maclean Darling,
Has probably experienced first-hand more than enough of
Gordon Brown's rages and snarling.
His leader's current weakness makes him impossible to be sacked.
But he knows after the election, whatever the result,
out of No 11, he will be packed.

8. The Shadow Chancellor



George Gideon Oliver Osborne,

Could hardly be described as shy and withdrawn.

With Uni dining-club pals he was extremely gregarious.

And his antics in detail, though highly questionable, could be seen as hilarious.

9. The Foreign Secretary

David Wright Miliband's

Political foundations seem to be built upon finest sand.

Evidenced by his on-again, off-again semi-challenges of his boss.

He clearly fears his chance of gain is smaller than his risk of loss.

10. The Shadow Home Secretary

Christopher Stephen Grayling,
Not endearing the Mancunians to him was a recent failing.
After he compared the state of Moss Side to down-town
Baltimore,
When he witnessed there what he described as a form of
'urban war'.

11. Secretary of State for Justice

John Whitaker Straw, aka Jack,
At the UN was seemingly taken aback,
By the imposing figure above him. He couldn't properly see
In the dark with his new contact lenses that he was shaking
hands with Robert Mugabe.

12. Chairman of the Conservative Party

Perhaps I could have phrased that a little bit better...

Eric Jack Pickles,

Justifies his second home, saying “Parliament stickles

For its business to run in a manner clockwork."

"So just like a real job, then", Dimble said, with a smirk.

13. The Home Secretary

Alan Arthur Johnson,

Did not come to Parliament by way of Eton, then Cantab or Oxon.

Instead it was from humble beginnings to leader of a union, trade

That his elevation to great office of state was unusually made.

14. See Below - I

Look, it's quite a senior post...

Dominic Charles Roberts Grieve,

Is currently the Shadow Secretary of State for Justice, we are given to believe.

He's not as well known as the Shadow Minister for Immigration, Damien Green,

But that's only because, fitted up by the rozzers, he has not been.

15. Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Hilary James Wedgwood Benn

Enjoys the full confidence of the leadership, but then

This may be because the son would rather,

Not repeat the leftward shift to Labour's 1980's unelectability

that characterised the father.

16. Shadow Health Secretary

...so no more piste jokes, then...

Andrew David Lansley,

Had a minor stroke and now cannot ski safely.

With the above issue it's probably for the best,

That his main concern is the current and future state of the NHS.

17. Lib Dem Home Office Spokesman

...and I had that barney with Clegg on the telly...

Christopher Murray Paul Huhne,
Like most Lib Dem MPs is difficult to lampoon*.
It's because individually they're so hard to remember.
I only recall him because in 2007 he was a party leadership
contender.

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*Apart from Campbell, Kennedy, Opik and poor Mark Oaten,
The latter's execrable exploit is, however, best forgoatten.

18. Minister for Women and Equality

Harriet Ruth Harman,

Is not the type to genuflect or bend her knee-pan.

Her ambition is a world free from discrimination and of total equality.

But she did not object too much when she was elevated to the status of a QC.

19. Shadow Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

...It's a fair cop guv, but society's to blame.

Mrs Caroline Alice Spelman, (née Cormack),
Has of late been the subject of sustained attack.
In her mingling of personal and official money she was
perhaps far too canny.
And for 1997 and 1998 she was officially found to have used
public funds to help finance her children's nanny*.

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*The popular description of this scandal was obvious, I am thirty-five years too late,
In asking lazy journalists to refrain from suffixing such events with '-gate'.

20. Children, Schools and Families Minister

Edward Michael Balls,

Can only watch in silence as his glittering ministerial career stalls

And crashes forthwith,

Due almost entirely to his department's clumsy interference in the official persecution of the hapless Sharon Shoesmith.

21. Shadow Children, Schools and Families Minister

Michael Andrew Gove,

Is a name you may soon grow to love,

If you, like me, have children in need of a quality state education.

I understand in our schools, when in office he will effect yet another mini-Reformation.

22. Minister for Energy and "Climate Change"

Edward Samuel Miliband,

Has done well with the strong cards dealt to his hand.

With David he shares the same father and mother.

But it has to be said that, of the two, he is currently the less successful brother.

23. See Below - II

Nicholas Le Quesne Herbert,

Of the Tories is the most concerned with burbot and turbot.

Not that for these creatures the others show no cares,

It's just that he's the Shadow Secretary of State for

Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

24. Lib Dem Spokesperson for Housing

Miss Sarah Louise Teather,

Should step back and take a breather.

She has had so many public jobs while still so young and is

now an MP, to boot.

And did all this without a husband* in sight - what a hoot!

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*I apologise. Perhaps she has no desire to be a mother or a wife.
She might even be cohabiting – I have no insight whatsoever into her

personal life.

25. Secretary of State for Work and Pensions

knowha'a'mean, awright?

Less of the handbag, matey and more of the hockey stick

Ms Yvette Cooper,

Has a bio that's jolly super.

But amidst her undimm-ed success all the same,

She doesn't honour her husband by deigning to take his name*.

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*But before, on this, I start fielding some most unpleasant calls,
She simply may not want to be described as 'Mrs Evey Balls'.

26. Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions

Mrs Theresa Mary May,

In electoral defeat was heard to say,

At the 2002 Conference, when all were not, as now, so hale
and hearty,

That most people thought the Tories were the Nasty Party.

27. Shadow Minister for Energy and "Climate Change"

Greg Clark,

Apparently* has no middle name to park

Between the other two.

Because that's something his parents decided they would not do.

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*If this is not the case then up I will not be het,
As on this topic I did perform a thorough search upon the internet.

28. Shadow Leader of the House of Commons

Sir George Samuel Knatchbull Young, 6th Baronet,
Tried twice to become Commons Speaker but has not
succeeded yet.
He failed once against Michael Martin, aka Gorbals Mick,
And also against John Bercow*, which most Tory MPs
consider a bit thick.

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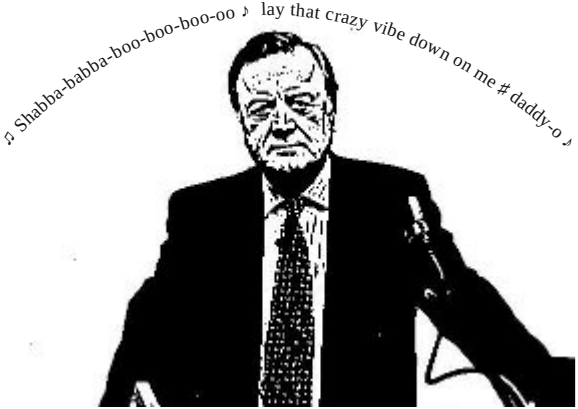
*To avoid a contempt of Parliament a clarification I feel I owe.
It was the election outcome to which I referred and absolutely not Mr
Bercow.

29. Shadow Secretary of State for Business



Kenneth Harry Clarke QC,

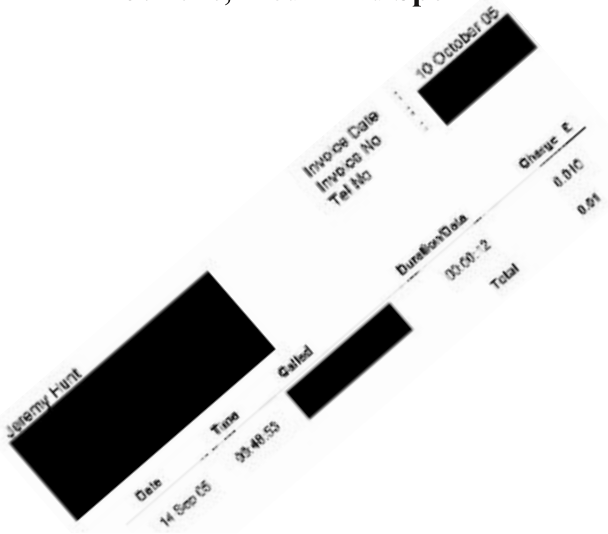
Has a most impressive political CV.

He also likes smoking cigars, wearing suede shoes and

listening to jazz,

None of which (I believe) he has in common with Keith Vaz.

30. Shadow Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport



Jeremy Hunt,

Still shouldn't be rhymed with that genital-based cursing grunt.

Even though not only large expenses have the potential to

appall,

And he was recorded as claiming one penny for a

twelve-second mobile telephone call.

31. Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Department for Communities and Local Government

Shahid Malik,

His expenses exposed, did not panic.

On a live news broadcast he strongly defended his decision,

To try and claim public money for a forty*-inch digital plasma

flat-screen colour television.

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*One wonders why he felt that, with us paying, only forty the job could do,
When we would have clearly been better off had he bought, second-hand, a
cathode-ray with only thirty-two.

32. The Unwanted Appendix

Stephen John Byers, Patricia Hope Hewitt and Geoffrey
William Hoon,
Will all, thank God, be stepping down as MPs and thus will,
forever* we can but pray, be leaving Parliament quite soon.
In a TV sting, with hidden cameras, each was made a sucker,
Caught touting alleged ministerial influence for thousands a day,
which was seriously less than pukka.

*It is to be hoped that this blatantly dishonest attempt at remuneration,
Will permanently prevent for them a successful House of Lords nomination.

Paul Timothy Horgan,
For you, this humble offering he has organ-
-ised. Aged forty-six, for twenty-five years a career in IT he enjoyed,
Until the Dot-Com Bust and Credit Crunch, because of which he became
quite unemployed.

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